

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A search method by a search broker for searching for service, said search broker being connected to a client making a request for service, servers organized in a hierarchical structure for providing service, a policy database for holding policy information about service requested by said client, and a registry for holding contents of service provided by said servers, said search method comprising:

a first step of receiving a request to search for service;

a second step of asking for policy information of said client having made a request for service and obtaining the policy information of said client from said policy database;

a third step of requesting a search for a server matching service asked for by said search request and obtaining information showing a server matching said service from said registry;

a fourth step of extracting a server matching the client's policy information obtained in said second step from among servers related to said information obtained in said third step; and

a fifth step of transmitting the information showing the server extracted in said fourth step to the source of the search request for service.

2. A search method in Claim 1, wherein said search broker further comprises an additional

information database storing additional information related to service provided by said server, wherein the third step comprises obtaining additional information of the server matching the requested service from the additional information database, and wherein said fourth step comprises referring to the server's additional information obtained in the third step from among servers related to the information obtained third step and extracting a server matching the client's policy information obtained in the second step.

3. A search method by a portal server for providing service, said portal server being connected to a client making a request for service, servers organized in a hierarchical structure for providing service, a policy database for holding policy information about service requested by said client, a registry for holding contents of service provided by said servers, and a search broker for searching for a server providing service in response to a search request for service, said search method, performed by said portal server providing service to said search broker, comprising:

- a first step of said portal server receiving a service request from said client;

- a second step of said portal server asking said search broker to search for a server matching said service request;

- a third step of said portal server obtaining

information about a server matching said service request and asking said server to provide service; and

a fourth step of said server, who has accepted said service request from said portal server, asking said search broker to search for a server matching said requested service, obtaining information about said server matching said requested service, and asking said server to provide service.

4. A search method according to Claim 3, wherein said portal further comprises a portal server policy database for storing information for selecting a lower-stratum server, wherein said server having a server policy database for storing information for selecting a lower-stratum server, wherein said third step further comprises extracting a server matching policy information of said portal server policy database from among servers obtained for a reason of being suitable for said requested service and asking said extracted server to provide service, wherein said fourth step further comprises extracting a server matching policy information server policy database from among servers obtained for a reason of being suitable for said requested service and asking said extracted server to provide service.

5. A search method according to Claim 3, wherein said portal server further comprises a portal server policy database for storing information for selecting a lower-stratum server, wherein said portal server

receives a result of service from said server requested service and information for evaluating service, and wherein on the basis of information for evaluating said service, a result of evaluation of the server's service by said client is reflected in said portal server policy database.

6. A search method according to Claim 5, wherein on the basis of a result of comparison between a level of credibility set for said client and a predetermined standard value, said portal server makes a decision whether to automatically have the evaluation of said server's service reflected in said portal server policy database or to ask the operator to reflect said evaluation of said server's service in said portal server policy database.

7. A search method according to Claim 3, wherein said server further comprises a server policy database for storing information for selecting a lower-stratum server, wherein said server transmits information for evaluation of service along with a result of service requested and accepted in said third or fourth step to the source of the service request, and wherein on the basis of information for evaluation of said service, from among evaluation results of service of said server done by said client, the evaluation of service of a lower-stratum server is reflected in said server policy database.

8. A search method according to Claim 7, wherein

on the basis of a result of comparison between a level of credibility set for said client and a predetermined standard value, said server makes a decision whether to automatically have the evaluation of said server's service reflected in said portal server policy database or to ask the operator to reflect said evaluation of said server's service in said portal server policy database.

9. A search broker for searching for service, said search broker being connected to a client making a request for service, servers organized in a hierarchical structure for providing service, a policy database for holding policy information about service requested by said client, and a registry for holding contents of service provided by said servers, said search broker comprising:

- a search request receiving part for receiving a request to search for service;

- a policy inquiry part asking said policy database for policy information of said client having made a request for service and obtaining the policy information of said client from said policy database;

- a registry search part for requesting a search for a server matching service asked for by said search request and obtaining information showing a server matching said service from said registry;

- a policy extracting part for extracting a server matching the client's policy information

obtained by said policy part from among servers related to said information obtained by said registry search part; and

a search result transmitting part for transmitting the information showing the server extracted by said policy extracting part to the source of said search request for service.

10. A search broker according to Claim 9, further comprising:

an additional information database for storing additional information about contents of service provided by said server; and an additional information search part for obtaining additional information about a server matching said requested service from said additional information database,

wherein said policy extracting part refers to said additional information about a server obtained by said additional information search part from among servers related to the information obtained by said registry search part and extracts the server matching the client's policy information obtained by said policy inquiry part.